

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 12746 111935Z

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PASS WHITE HOUSE

STATE

FOR EUR, AF/P, AF/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SOLN, IT (CARTER, LILLIAN)

SUBJECT: MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT--ROME ARRIVAL STATEMENT

REF: (A) ROME 11784, (B) ROME 12041

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGEETED TEXT FOR ROME ARRIVAL STATEMENT.
2. START TEXT: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TURNING OUT TO WELCOME ME.
3. THE PRIMARY PUPOSE OF MY VISIT IS TO ACCEPT THE CERES MEDAL FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA OF TTE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION. THE MEDAL HAS BEEN STRUCK TO CELEBRATE THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE. MOST OF MY LIFE HAS BEE SPENT ON THE FARM--FIRST IN GEORGIA AND LATER AS A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER IN INDIA WHERE I WORKED AS A NURSE FOR THE FAMILIES OF SMALL FARMERS. I BELIEVE THAT I HAVE BEE CHOSEN TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD, NOT FOR MY WORK--FOR OTHERS HAVE EONE MUI MORE--BUT AS A REPRESENTATIVE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ROME 12746 111935Z

OF THE THOUSANDS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO, IN THE PEACE CORPS SPIRIT, HAVE GIVEN SOMETHING OF THEMSELVES FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND. THE AWARD HAS PARTICULAR MEANING COMING AS IT DOES FROM THE FAO WHICH IS AT WORK THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

4. I AM TRAVELLING AS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE

PRESIDENT TO HELP TO CALL WORLD PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE TERRIBLE SCOURGE OF HUNGER, TO THE NEED TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AND TO THE ROLE THAT WOMEN CAN PLAY IN MEETING THESE CHALLENGES. NOWHERE ARE THE TWIN PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND LOW AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY MORE DRAMATICALLY SEEN THAN IN THE SAHEL REGION OF WESTERN AFRICA. SEVERAL DROUGHTS DURING THE LAST DECADE HAVE ENDANGERED THE LIVES AND FUTURE WELL-BEING OF MILLIONS OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. INTERNATIONAL AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE JOINED AID GOVERNMENTS OF MANY NATIONS IN AN EFFORT TO HELP THIS STRICKEN PART OF THE GLOBE. THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AS THE EFFORT IS KNOWN, HAS THE FIRM AND VIGOROUS BACKING OF THE UNITED STATES: THE CONGRESS HAS SO FAR AUTHORIZED A U.S. CONTRIBUTION OF \$200,000,000 TO HELP TO MAKE THE EIGHT NATIONS OF THE SAHEL SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD PRODUCTION.

5. DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS WE WILL MEET WITH FAO OFFICIALS TO BE BRIEFED ON THEIR EFFORTS IN THE SAHEL. WE WILL ALSO MEET WITH INTERESTED ITALIANS AND, I HOPE, HAVE TIME TO SEE SOMETHING OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY. END TEXT. GARDNER

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